

ment of liquor regulations. Law and force are not the only means of fighting the liquor habit. Attention to the wants of the men may in many cases serve the purpose more satisfactorily. The man who works hard every day should not be regarded as a mere machine. When he is through with his work he wants rest and amusement. If these are readily obtainable he will not be a very good customer of the "blind pig," and he will be a better citizen and a more efficient worker.

Given comfortable homes and varied forms of amusement most miners are content without liquor. Denied these they resort to the "blind pigs" for diversion.

THE IRON ORE TRADE

The demand for iron ore this year has been very poor and it is not surprising to learn that shipments from the Lake Superior States so far are several million tons less than for the corresponding period last year. Many iron mines are idle. Particularly regrettable is the effect on the iron mining industry in Canada. This has never been in very satisfactory condition; but a few companies have struggled along in spite of many difficulties. Given a good market for their product they would have a reasonable chance of success; but under present conditions profitable operation is hardly possible. It is to be hoped that the market will soon improve and that the operating companies will yet succeed in their efforts. Handicapped by the nature of the ore bodies they have had a hard struggle.

MINERAL RESOURCES OF ALBERTA

For many years British Columbia has been widely known as a province rich in mineral wealth. The neighboring province of Alberta has, however, not been commonly regarded as one of promise for the prospector. As a matter of fact Alberta has enormous deposits of coal and many of the seams have been worked very profitably. There are a number of large mines in the western part of the province. Further east in the prairie section the coal lies in flat seams close to the surface and is mined in very many places.

The coal mined in the mountains is a very good grade of bituminous coal. That in the prairie section is a less valuable coal, but it is being used satisfactorily for several purposes. Much of it will not stand transportation, but is successfully used locally. There seems good reason to believe that methods will be devised to utilize such coal by briquetting it, distilling off volatile constituents or by burning it at the mine for the development of power. The possibilities offered will doubtless lead to the discovery of suitable methods for the use of these so-called lignite deposits.

For some years Alberta has been producing, notably in the vicinity of Medicine Hat, large quantities of natural gas. The successful developers of some of the gas fields believe that conditions in other parts of the province are promising for the occurrence of natural gas,

and it is expected that in the next few years many wells will be drilled in such districts.

While gas has been profitably produced for several years oil has as yet been produced in very small quantity in Alberta. For many years evidence of the occurrence of oil has been frequently referred to. Until recently, however, little drilling had been done.

Last fall the Calgary Petroleum Products Company found oil in the Sheep Creek district near Calgary. The oil is a so-called white oil and the discovery was regarded as of importance chiefly as an indicator of the probable occurrence of larger quantities of heavier oil in the neighborhood. Some months later a larger deposit of light colored oil was encountered in the same well at greater depth. Since then the prospects of locating a profitable oil deposit have been regarded as very good.

A number of companies have been formed for the purpose of drilling for oil in the Sheep Creek district, and the territory adjoining the "Discovery" well will be explored.

It is to be hoped that the expectations of the directors of the companies will be realized and that a profitable oil field will be developed. With further development of the coal and natural gas resources of the province and with an important oil field Alberta would assume a much more prominent position from a mining standpoint.

KNIGHTHOOD FOR A CHIEF MINE INSPECTOR.

An unusual occurrence is the conferring of a knighthood on a mine inspector. The Colliery Guardian, of London, England, says:—

"The conferment of a knighthood upon Mr. Richard Augustine Studdert Redmayne, H. M. Chief Inspector of Mines, is a matter of no little interest to mining engineers. Mr. Redmayne was born on July 22, 1865, at South Dene, Gateshead-upon-Tyne. He was educated privately, and then passed through the Durham College of Physical Science. In 1883 he entered upon his apprenticeship at the Hutton Collieries, gaining his certificate in 1886. During 1891-3 he was in Natal, and in the latter year was appointed resident manager of the Seaton Delaval Collieries. This post he vacated in 1902 to take up the professorship of mining at Birmingham University, which he filled until 1908, when he was called upon to undertake missions for the Home Office, shortly afterward being appointed to the post of Chief Inspector of Mines, and head of the newly-created Mining Department at the Home Office. Since that time Mr. Redmayne has acted on every committee or commission engaged in the examination of problems relating to coal mining in Great Britain, an enumeration of which it is unnecessary to give here. Mr. Redmayne's literary activities have been considerable, being by no means confined to the numerous official reports that have been issued above his signature; he is the author of 'Modern Practice in Mining,' which, we believe, is still incomplete; joint author with Mr. F. H. Bulman, of 'Colliery Working and Management,' and for some years edited the 'Colliery Manager's Pocket Book.' It may be added that the Chief Inspector is related by marriage to the Prime Minister."